

R E M A R K S

Applicants have submitted herewith a Substitute Specification. The Substitute Specification does not contain new matter. A marked-up copy of the original specification showing the matter being added to and deleted from the specification is also submitted herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the Substitute Specification.

Claims 1, 6-10 and 12-21 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of the references listed in paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action letter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 2-5, 11 and 22-25, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As the Examiner will note, the allowable subject matter of claim 2 has been introduced into claim 1, rendering claim 1 allowable, and correspondingly, claim 2 has been canceled from the present application. Also, the allowable subject matter of claim 22 has been introduced to claim 21, and correspondingly, claim 22 has been canceled from the present application.

In addition, newly added claim 26 has been added to the present application, representing a combination of original claim 1, original claim 10,

and original claim 11, which was considered allowable by the Examiner. All of the remaining claims are now dependent from claims indicated as being allowable by the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is now believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and thus reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

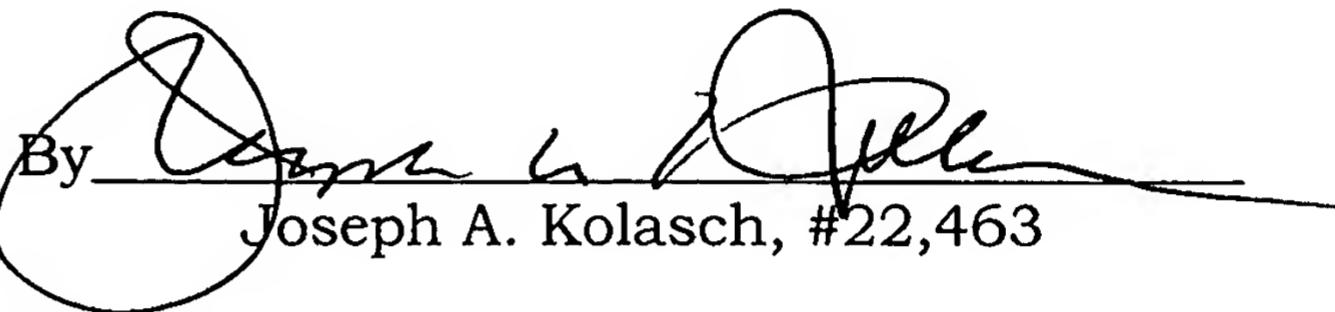
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mr. Joseph A. Kolasch (Reg. No. 22,463) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or

1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463

JAK/clb

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachments: NEW Abstract of the Disclosure
Substitute Specification (clean version)
Substitute Specification (marked up version)